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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 of the Application stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S.P.N. 6,070,185 to Anupam et al. (hereinafter Anupam).

Independent Claims 1 and 14

Claim 1 recites a system for collaboratively browsing network sites, and states in relevant part:

A collaborative browsing system for a computer network comprising network servers hosting a plurality of network sites, comprising:

... wherein said main server enables a first one of the client programs connected to a network site in one of the cells to identify a second one of the client programs and to form a session with that second client program that collaboratively browses the network sites ... (Emphasis added).

The Office Action relies on Anupam to disclose the collaborative browsing limitation of claim 1, and states in relevant part:

Wherein said main server enables a first one of the client programs connected to a network site in one of the cells to identify a second one of the client programs and to form a session with that second client program that collaboratively browses the network sites (column 3, lines 115-20, column 4, lines 1-6, column 6, lines 57-62); (Emphasis added).

The cited language from Anupam discloses:

... 303, 305 and 307. In a conventional manner, the user can select any one of the options by pointing and clicking at the option using a mouse device or similar indicator device (not shown). Specifically, selection of option 303 enables the user to learn about the different products that the company markets. In addition, it allows the user to place an order for ... Anupam, 3:15-20.

... surrogate 173. A surrogate is an assistant to a browser. In particular, surrogate 173, which is further described herein below, serves as an assistant to browser 171 to carry out collaborative browsing of HTML documents, e.g., in providing customer

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service. Manager processor 107 administers such a collaborative browsing session. Therefore, as soon as surrogate 173 comes into being, it establishes a connection . . . Anupam, 4:1-6. (Emphasis added).

. . . through controller 111. Surrogate 173 then directs browser 171 to issue a similar request. As such, as the session progresses, the CSA and the user manage to synchronously go from one URL to another to collaboratively browse relevant HTML documents and, based on the findings, resolve the problem at hand through the textual or voice . . . Anupam, 6:57-62. (Emphasis added).

As discussed in the Prior Response¹, browsing as recited in claim 1 of the application is collaborative because the client programs participating in a collaborative browsing session each receive the same URL and then display the same page available at that URL.

The Application states in relevant part:

In turn, the server software causes the main server 115 to send the guide's network location (URL) to each session client program computer 105. The client programs receive the new URL and cause their client program computer 105 to establish a connection at the new network location (URL). Application, page 12, lines 9-12.

Reading claim 1 in view of the specification, this meaning of collaborative browsing is consistent with the specification and within the broadest reasonable interpretation.² Thus, the Applicants respectfully assert that Anupam does not disclose client programs that collaboratively browse network sites as recited in claim 1 of the Application. While the cited language includes the phrase "collaboratively", Anupam does not disclose collaborative browsing as in claim 1 of the Application, but rather discloses asymmetric browsing where the customer and CSA of Anupam see a first and second version of a web page.

Anupam states in relevant part:

When a request for particular data is received by a web server, the indicator information is used to select a version of the particular data corresponding thereto, and the originator of the request is then presented with the selected version only. In a preferred

¹ See Prior Response, pages 8-10.

² During patent examination, the pending claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. In re Hyatt, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372, 54 USPQ2d 1664, 1667 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

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embodiment, the indicator information identifies the originator of the request. In a customer service application, if the indicator information identifies that the originator is a service representative, he/she is then presented with a first version of the requested data. If the indicator information identifies that the originator is a customer, he/she is then presented with a second version of the requested data. Anupam, 1:51-67. (Emphasis added).

This asymmetric collaborative browsing approach is advantageous in many applications including the above customer service application. In particular, in resolving a bill problem as in the above customer service session, it is desirable to have the CSA in possession of more data than the user. Anupam, 7:2-6. (Emphasis added).

Thus, claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that Anupam does not disclose collaborative browsing as recited in claim 1 of the Application. Independent claim 14 recites one or more of the limitations of allowable claim 1, including the collaborative browsing limitation, and so is allowable for at least the reasons given for the allowability of claim 1.

Dependent Claim 7

The Office Action rejects dependent claim 7 as anticipated by Anupam, and states:

As per claim 7, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server sends advertisements to at least one client program (column 2, lines 55-57, column 3, lines 11-15). (Emphasis added).

Claim 7 recites;

A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server sends advertisements to at least one client program. (Emphasis added).

The cited language from Anupam discloses:

As soon as the connection between browser 151 and server 109 is established, server 109 retrieves from host computer 115 home page information, and a customer identification (ID) number assigned to the user for identifying him/her temporarily. Anupam Col. 2, lines 53-57.

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Upon receipt of the HTML document, browser 151 opens the document and causes the home page to be displayed on computer 150. FIG. 3 illustrates such a home page. As shown in FIG. 3, the home page comprises displayed options 303, 305 and 307. Anupam Col. 3, lines 57-62.

The Applicants respectfully assert that claim 7 is allowable for at least the reason that the cited language from Anupam does not teach or disclose advertisements, or a main server sending advertisements to a client program, each as recited in claim 7. If the Examiner asserts that Anupam discloses sending advertisements to a client program as recited in claim 7, the Applicants respectfully request clarification of the Examiner's citation and reasoning. The Applicants also assert that claim 7 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from allowable claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20

Claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20 are allowable for at least the reason that each depends directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above Remarks, the Applicants respectfully assert that each of the pending claims is allowable as unanticipated by Anupam. Accordingly, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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